
Retired/Recalled Judges

October 5, 2016

HOT TOPICS



WELCOME

The Committee on Retired/Recalled Judges welcomes you to the fourth edition of “Hot Topics.” The purpose of Hot Topics is to increase and enhance communication among the senior judges. This and subsequent Hot Topics publications is intended to contain information helpful to you. We hope you will share information to include in these publications, whether posed in the form of a question to which we will provide answers, information you find helpful in navigating the system as a senior judge, or an interesting tidbit about what’s happening in your life – hobbies, interests, etc. So, if there is something that you think your colleagues will find interesting or informative, please let us know. Also, please let us know how we might improve this news flash so that it is more meaningful for you.

MEET THE EDITORS

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Retired/Recalled Judges renamed to Senior Judges

On August 25, 2016, Chief Judge Barbera issued an Administrative Order changing the name of retired/recalled judges to Senior Judges. Due to the complexity and the volume of cases in Maryland's court system, Senior Judges are integral to the operation of the Judiciary.

Chief Judge Barbera states that:

The Judiciary is fortunate indeed to be able to rely upon the collective experience and wisdom of judges who have retired and are approved by the Court of Appeals for recall service. They play an essential role in covering judicial absences and providing additional court resources when the caseload demands. As the term "retired/recalled" did not convey the importance of the role played by these judges, the term was changed to "senior" to better reflect the value of that role to the Judiciary and the people of Maryland.

The Order provides a *per diem* to Senior Judges serving on a workgroup or committee of the Judiciary or participating in judicial education. Additionally, Senior Judges will be reimbursed for mileage and meals in accordance with the State Court Administrator's travel policy.

Payroll Changes for Senior Judges

In late August 2016, the Payroll Department changed the payroll processing period for Senior Judges. Senior judges are now paid during the opposite week from their previous processing period in order to better transition Active Judges to Senior Judges in the State's Payroll System. This change enabled the Payroll Department to fully process a retiring judge out of the State's Payroll System and bring them on as a Senior Judge at the same time. The change in pay periods briefly affected the pay period as the new system was implemented, but there should be no other anticipated interruptions in pay. Also, there is no need for a senior judge to provide a new W-4 tax form. The Senior Judges will be processed under the Contractual Payroll and Special Pay system.

The term "Contractual Payroll and Special Pay system" does not imply that Senior Judges are contract employees. Senior judges fall under the Special Pay category. The Payroll Department will continue to withhold any appropriate taxes from Senior Judges. Senior Judges will not be responsible for providing a 1099 form. There are now two tabs on POSC to review pay information under "Regular" and "Contract." Any paychecks received after August 3, 2016 can be found under the "Contract" tab.



REMINDERS

Please remember to continue to input your hours worked even though you are not being compensated. It is important to the Judiciary to maintain all senior judges' hours worked and also a demonstration of the senior judges' commitment to the Judiciary and its citizens of Maryland.



BENCH/BAR CONFERENCE 2016

The 2016 Maryland State Bar Association Joint Bench/Bar Conference was held from Wednesday, June 15, 2016 through Friday, June 17, 2016, in Ocean City, Maryland. On June 16, 2016, the Retired/Recalled Judges Committee convened its annual meeting. Approximately fifty senior judges were in attendance. Judge Kenney provided greetings from the Chair and introduced the presenters.

State Court Administrator Pamela Harris addressed the Committee and thanked its members for their hard work. She also stressed the need for senior judges as a means for assisting with the state's increased caseload.

Lolli Petrillo provided a presentation on CONNECT for the Committee. She demonstrated many of the system's applications on a projector in real time. There were also stations set up for one-on-one/hands-on training for the participants.

Next year's Judicial Conference will be held on June 12-14, 2017. More information will be provided as the date approaches.

Judge Alpert's Former Law Clerks Discuss His Impact on their Service on the bench

The Honorable Paul E. Alpert's has mentored more than forty judicial law clerks over his career. Judge Alpert explains that he, "love[s] working with law clerks. Being a law clerk provides young people the foundation to be a lawyer or a judge."

Judge Alpert graduated from the University of Baltimore Law School with honors. He was sworn in as a District Court judge in 1972. In 1977, he was elevated to the Circuit Court of Maryland for Baltimore County. Judge Alpert was named to the Court of Special Appeals in 1982. He continues to serve as a senior judge in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland.

Two of Judge Alpert's law clerks have been elevated to the bench – the Honorable Kate A. Toomey in the Utah Court of Appeals and the Honorable Paul Goetzke in the Circuit Court of Maryland for Anne Arundel County.

After graduating from law school, Judge Toomey served as Judge Alpert's law clerk at the Court of Special Appeals. Judge Toomey says she, "owe[s] a great debt of gratitude to Judge Alpert for several reasons. Serving as his law clerk opened many doors for me, and among other things the experience gave me career opportunities that I might not otherwise have had." In September 2014, Judge Toomey was sworn in as a judge on the Utah Court of Appeals.

Judge Toomey added:

Working for Judge Alpert confirmed my sense that it's [being a judge] the best job in the world, but I also learned some more profound things from him. He showed me how to engage in thorough and careful analysis, and inspired me to write for an audience broader than lawyers and other judges. At the same time, he is a deeply compassionate human being, aware of the effect of his decisions on real people, and I have tried to keep this in mind in executing my own judicial responsibilities. And finally, he demonstrated that kindness and good humor go a long way in smoothing the edges of a rough day.

The Honorable Paul Garvey Goetzke also served as a law clerk for Judge Alpert from 1986 to 1987 at the Court of Special Appeals. On January 3, 2005, Judge Goetzke was sworn in as an Associate Judge for the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County.

Judge Goetzke recalls that Judge Alpert "gave his clerks space and never hovered over us, he gave us a great deal of latitude and would meet with us to express any concerns --this was a supremely valuable learning experience for me." And, he does the same with his clerks. "It's wonderful to have a fresh pair of eyes and a different perspective on the work that you do. I learned that from Judge Alpert."

Judge Goetzke also shared a personal story that spoke to a common refrain about Judge Alpert's kindness towards others:

When I injured myself and broke my neck, one of the very first people that came to the hospital was Judge Alpert. He dropped by and we had a very nice visit. It was truly very typical of Judge Alpert, being kind and thoughtful, and a devoted family man. It meant an awful lot to me for him to stop by and see me.

The Committee appreciates Judge Alpert's, Judge Thurman Rhodes's, Judge Toomey's and Judge Goetzke's contributions to the newsletter and encourages future reader ideas/submissions.



Maryland Judiciary Introduces Cloud Computing

The Maryland Judiciary is introducing Microsoft 365 cloud computing for most Judiciary employees. The new Microsoft 365 software will allow employees to download Microsoft applications such as MS Word, MS Powerpoint, MS Outlook, and others for home use. SharePoint, One Note, and Skype Business will also be accessible from home. The upgrade to Microsoft 365 will replace the Mirage system and allow users to access the One Drive, a cloud-based software, for documents and other saved files. Cloud-based software allows users to access documents through the internet by using their Judiciary login and password from any location.

Users may download the software soon by going to <https://portal.office.com> and logging in with your CONNECT login and password.

RETIRED/RECALLED JUDGES' WEBPAGE

If you have not already done so, please visit the [Retired/Recalled Judges Webpage](#). This webpage includes information that should be of interest to the group, as well as personal updates, accolades, announcements and others items you may wish to share with the group. If there is anything you would like to share with your colleagues, you may contact JaCina Stanton, Esquire, or Sharon Wright, staff to the Retired and Recalled Judges Committee at jacina.stanton@mdcourts.gov (410) 260-1408 or sharon.wright@mdcourts.gov (410) 260-3451.



RESOURCES

Where do I go to find help?

JIS Help Desk - (410) 260-1114

GEARS - Tammy Sitar – Tammy.sitar@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-1419

HR Benefits - Monica Jackson – monica.jackson@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-1288

Education Committee - Mary Keller - mary.keller@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-5373

MDEC - Carla Jones – carla.jones@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-3526

Payroll - Lolli Petrillo – lolli.petrillo@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-1591

SharePoint - Mylita Jacob – mylita.jacob@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-1041

Travel Policy (related to GEARS) - Tammy Sitar – tammy.sitar@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-1419

Judiciary State Travel Coordinator - Allison Leebrick – Allison.leebrick@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-1417